

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling user spending of a user purchasing television programs in a television apparatus, comprising the steps of:

electronically detecting a first user request;

electronically providing a plurality of selectively actuatable entries for user spending limits with each entry being associated with a different-length time period, in response to the first user request;

electronically receiving user selection of at least one of the entries and a spending limit for each selected entry;

electronically determining if the spending limit for a shorter time period is greater than the spending limit for a longer time period if more than one of the entries is selected;

electronically providing a user warning if the spending limit for the shorter time period is greater than the spending limit for the longer time period;

electronically tracking a second user request to purchase a television program during the time period associated with each selected entry; and

electronically notifying the user in response to the second user request, if purchasing the requested television program would exceed the spending limit during the time period for any selected entry.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of electronically providing a selection for a rolling time period.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronically notifying step comprises the step of electronically generating a user warning.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of electronically allowing the user to override the user spending limit.

5-10. (CANCELLED)

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system for controlling user spending of a user purchasing television programs, comprising:

means for providing a plurality of selectively actuatable entries for user spending limits with each entry being associated with a different-length time period, in response to a first user request;

means for receiving user selection of at least one of the entries and a spending limit for each selected entry;

means for determining if the spending limit for a shorter time period is greater than the spending limit for a longer time period if more than one of the entries is selected, and for providing a user warning if the spending limit for the shorter time period is greater than the spending limit for the longer time period;

means for tracking a second user request to purchase a television program during the time period associated with each selected entry; and

means for notifying the user in response to the second user request, if purchasing the requested television program would exceed the spending limit during the time period for any selected entry.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A television apparatus for controlling user spending of a user purchasing television programs, comprising:

a user interface for receiving a first user request;

means for providing a plurality of spending limit entries for a single user with each entry corresponding to a different length time period, in response to the first user request;

means for receiving user selection of at least one of the spending limit entries and a spending limit for each selected spending limit entry;

means for determining if the spending limit for a shorter time period is greater than the spending limit for a longer time period if more than one of the spending limit entries is selected, and for providing a user warning if the spending limit for the shorter time period is greater than the spending limit for the longer time period;

means for tracking a second user request to purchase a television program during each different time period for which a spending limit was received; and

means for notifying the user in response to the second user request, if purchasing the requested television program would exceed the spending limit during the time period for any selected entry.

13. (CANCELLED)